

Planning/
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Project Title:

California's Integrated Border Approach
Strategy (CA-IBAS)

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Improving Regional Mobility in California's Border Communities

*A multi-agency initiative to improve the traveler experience
to and from California and Mexico*

WHAT WAS THE NEED?

California shares a 200-mile border with Mexico, the state's largest trading partner. Yet the border's infrastructure does not support the current and future cross-border flow of people and goods, and congestion and long wait times are common. California communities on the U.S.-Mexico border need more flexible approaches to addressing the border-crossing experience, especially in light of changing economic, environmental, and security needs. The primary weakness in the current approach is a lack of a shared, integrated vision in terms of planning and funding among the various federal, state, and local agencies involved in mobility projects around California's border communities. These government agencies could increase the effectiveness of their investments by jointly addressing the issues and needs created by cross-border employment, housing, goods movement, and tourism.

WHAT WAS OUR GOAL?

The goal of this multiphase project was to develop an institutional framework to identify, prioritize, fund, and implement integrated mobility and security strategies for California's land ports of entry along the border with Mexico.



This modified sign marks the dates when the new pedestrian path to Mexico opens. Planning activities on one side of the border have implications for the other side.

WHAT DID WE DO?

Caltrans, in partnership with METRANS Transportation Center, developed the California Integrated Border Approach Strategy (CA-IBAS), a two-phased, multi-agency initiative to improve mobility and the traveler experience in California border communities resulting from pedestrian and vehicle (including commercial) flows to and from U.S.-Mexico border ports of entry. One of the objectives for Phase I was to define the challenges for implementing projects and identify best practices and approaches to joint planning and multi-agency coordination for project development, financing, and delivery. The researchers examined case studies of other communities that are adjacent to a land port of entry and have established collaborative structures among various agencies. The team pinpointed overlapping and complementary areas among the agencies involved in border-related mobility and security activities and assessed the strengths and weaknesses of the current models used to facilitate multi-agency coordination at California's border.

WHAT WAS THE OUTCOME?

The CA-IBAS focuses on the unique institutional needs related to mobility and service delivery near California's southern border. A principal challenge is siloed planning and funding of infrastructure development and project delivery due to the restricted missions of many of the border-serving agencies. The research provides an overview of agencies involved in issues surrounding California border

communities, institutional structures that might be used to improve service delivery and funding, and financing options to support those institutional structures and multi-agency projects. This phase developed a framework in which border-related projects can be identified, developed, funded, and built. It also addressed the conflicting and overlapping goals between economic development, mobility, and environmental justice in border communities. Phase II of the CA-IBAS will explore potential responses.

WHAT IS THE BENEFIT?

The CA-IBAS provides an opportunity for stakeholders involved in California's border-crossing communities to create a planning framework that shifts away from siloed planning and funding to an integrated, multi-agency approach that promotes project collaboration and coordination of funding strategies and priorities.

LEARN MORE

To view the complete report:

www.dot.ca.gov/dist11/departments/planning/pdfs/2014_CA_IBAS_Phase_1_Final_Report.pdf



The multi-agency initiative includes improving the pedestrian experience at the U.S.-Mexico border.



California communities on the U.S.-Mexico border need more flexible approaches to addressing the border-crossing experience.